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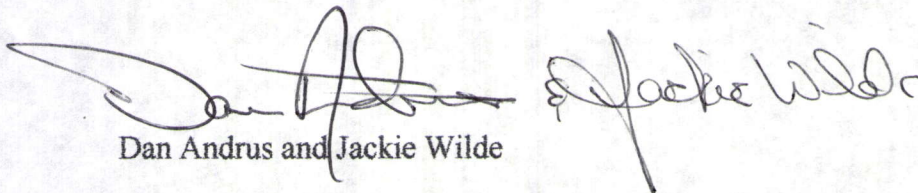M/045/060

April 23, 2005

Subject: <u>Written protest to Mine Plan Permit Revision, Holcim (US) Incorporated's,</u>
<u>Skull Valley Diamaceous Earth Quarry, M/045/060, Tooele County, Utah</u>

Dear Mr. Mark Mesch,

      I am writing in protest to the recent decision to approve Holcim (US) Inc. permit of expanding an existing small mining operation located in Skull Valley, Tooele County, Utah. Having seen and watched Holcims' current operation, I feel that expanding their current operation would only worsen an already bad situation. At the pit site, overburden and the pit itself is a horrible dust problem. In a valley where the wind blows all the time, dust from the operation is terrible. No dust control measures are taken to lessen the situation. Reject material and waste rock are found throughout the project. Roads to the pit area are open to common traffic and are not marked as to the hazard ahead, which includes dropoffs into the pit which are NOT bermed or fenced off. (During operation and non operation) Truck traffic due to the <u>existing</u> pit has already taken its toll on the Old Lincoln Highway. We are fortunate that it was paved due to the County school bus travel. The asphalt was placed over the existing gravel road with trucks and road grader. We are grateful for this, but it was NOT engineered for the heavy trucks and trailers that are currently hauling the material. Furthermore, those trucks travel past homes located on the Lincoln Highway, some of which have young children in which the trucks size and speed creates quite a hazard.

      I have no reason to believe that by approving the operation to go large scale, that Holcim will improve upon their current operations and respectfully protest the tentative decision to grant approval of the Large Mining Operations Notice of Intention for Holcim's Skull Valley Diatomaceous Earth's Mine.

Sincerely,

Dan Andrus and Jackie Wilde